

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 24-46 are pending in the present application. Claims 42 and 43 are amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; Claims 42-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph; Claims 24, 25, 29-32, and 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Haba et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,188,028, herein "Haba"); and Claims 26-28, 33-41, and 43-46 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Haba.

Regarding the objection to the specification, the specification has been amended as suggested by the outstanding Office Action without adding new matter. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Applicant notes that Figure 4 shows a screw 12S and also the specification specifically discloses at page 17, first full paragraph, a bush screw 12S. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that all the features of the claims are shown by the drawings and the objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 42-46 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 42 and 43 have been amended to clearly recite the relationship between a connector and a flat element formed between two rigid panes, consistent with Figure 3 for example. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested this objection be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 24, 25, 29-32, and 42 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Haba, that rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Briefly recapitulating, independent Claim 24 is directed to a connector for a flat multilayer element. The connector includes first and second rigid glazing panes and a liner fastened in a cutout of the second rigid glazing pane. The first rigid glazing pane is provided with one or more electrical functional elements and the second rigid glazing pane is joined to that side of the first rigid glazing pane that is provided with the one or more functional elements. In a non-limiting example, Figure 3 shows the first rigid glazing pane 2 having the electrical functional element 5, and the second rigid glazing pane 3. It is noted that the second rigid glazing pane 3 is joined to the first rigid glazing pane on the side on which the functional element 5 is provided. In other words, the functional element 5 is provided between the first and second panes 2 and 3.

Turning to the applied art, Haba shows a multilayer structure having a plurality of stacked separate circuit panels 102 provided with a contact pad 124 and a contact 116 that extends through an opening 122 onto the plurality of the circuit panels 102. The outstanding Office Action asserts that a contact 118 provided on a side of the plurality of the circuit panels 102 corresponds to the claimed one or more functional elements provided between the first and second panes. However, as clearly shown by Haba in Figure 2, the asserted functional element 118 is not provided between the asserted first and second elements 102 and 124 as required by original Claim 24.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 24 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably distinguish over Haba.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

Remus F. Fetea, Ph.D.
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